



Shakib Khan all set to entertain in ‘Anandamela’

Shakib Khan’s fans are in for a treat this Eid-ul-Azha, as BTV’s *Anandamela* will feature the megastar in a candid appearance on the popular festive programme.

Filed on May 28 at BTV’s own studio, the episode will feature Shakib performing on songs from his films and reflecting on his remarkable 26-year journey in showbiz.

Hosted by Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Intekhab Dinar, the hour-long special is set to air at 10pm on Eid night.

According to the *Anandamela* production team, this year’s edition will once again dazzle viewers with star-studded performances, including songs by legendary singer Sabina Yasmin, a musical segment by rock band Warfaze, and appearances by several film celebrities.

‘Coco’ actress Renée Victor passes away at 86

Renée Victor, the actress best known for voicing Abuelita in Disney and Pixar’s *Coco* and playing Lupita on Showtime’s *Weeds*, has passed away at the age of 86.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, she died last Friday night at her home in Sherman Oaks, surrounded by family, following a battle with lymphoma.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1938, she relocated to Los Angeles during the 1960s to pursue a music career. Victor collaborated with notable figures like Xavier Cugat and Perez Prado, both instrumental in bringing Latin music to mainstream American audiences. From 1963 to 1973, she and her husband performed together as the musical duo Ray & Renée.

Coco, the Oscar-winning film, is acclaimed for its all-Latin cast and the Oscar-winning song *Remember Me*.



‘ONTORE TUMI ACHO CHIRODIN’

A tribute to Nazrul’s enduring musical legacy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To commemorate National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam’s 126th birth anniversary, Gems of Nazrul hosted *Ontore Tumi Acho Chirodin*, a musical tribute uniting renowned and emerging artistes to celebrate his rich musical legacy.

The programme, held at The Daily Star Centre last Saturday evening, opened with a projected audiovisual sequence of Nazrul’s songs, followed by live performances by artistes, including Dr Asit Roy, Yasmin Mushtari, Sujit Mustafa, Dr Priyanka Gope, Shaheed Kabir Polash, Dr Padmini Rai, and Bijon Chandra Mistry.

In her opening remarks, Sadya Afreen Mallick, the founder of Gems of Nazrul, reiterated the platform’s mission: to bring Nazrul’s musical genius to broader public consciousness.

“Much of Nazrul’s work remains unfamiliar to the younger generation,” she noted. “If school children are taught even ten



of his songs, it would offer them a profound understanding of who Nazrul was; not only as a poet but as a visionary of musical and social harmony.”

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, delivered brief closing remarks, reflecting on the continuing relevance of Nazrul’s messages in a world fraught with division and inequality.

The event was directed by Sadya Afreen Mallick, with Dr Gulzar Hossain guiding as the master of ceremonies. Dr Asit Roy delivered the final performance of the night.

The tribute did not seek to reinvent Nazrul’s legacy. Instead, it asked a more urgent question: why has so much of his music faded from public memory? By drawing attention to what remains overlooked, *Ontore Tumi Acho Chirodin* positioned itself as more than a celebration—it became a meditation on the gaps in cultural education, the erasure of artistic heritage, and the need for deliberate reintroduction. In doing so, it reminded audiences that legacies do not endure on their own; they require work.

Netflix to roll out final season of ‘Stranger Things’ in three volumes

Netflix has announced the release dates for the fifth and final season of *Stranger Things*. The epic conclusion begins streaming worldwide on November 26, with Volume 2 arriving on December 26 and the finale on January 1, 2026.

The announcement came via a two-minute teaser video featuring returning stars like Winona Ryder,

Millie Bobby Brown, and Finn Wolfhard.

Described by co-creator Ross Duffer as the show’s most ambitious season yet, it was filmed over a year with over 650 hours of footage. The final season promises eight blockbuster-

sized episodes filled with suspense, nostalgia, and one last battle against the Upside Down.

The ensemble cast also includes David Harbour, Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin, Natalia Dyer, Sadie Sink, Joe Keery, and Maya Hawke, among others.



COMING ON THIS EID

VISION

Hide N Seek

MAHMUDUR RAHMAN HIME

Tanjin Tisha, Dighi and Chamak unite for Eid web thriller ‘Hide N Seek’

This Eid, the web-film *Hide N Seek* brings together Tanjin Tisha, Prarthana Fardin Dighi, and Rukaiya Jahan Chamak in a suspense-filled narrative directed by Mahmudur Rahman Hime.

Set to stream on Deepto Play, the story follows entertainment journalist Nadia as she investigates an incident involving Rasha, a young woman injured on the night filmstar Imtiaz Khan announces his wedding. Rumours suggest Rasha had a secret relationship with Imtiaz and attempted suicide.

The film also stars Ziaul Roshan, Intekhab Dinar, and Deepa Khandakar. Written by Ahmed Khan Hirak, the project aims to challenge societal taboos through a gripping, edge-of-the-seat thriller.

NEWS

We want to be your partner

FROM PAGE 12

to Beijing, he requested Chinese President Xi Jinping to encourage companies of his country to invest in Bangladesh. “I’m honoured that the president has followed up on his word.”

For many years, Bangladesh has been touted as a strategic location – at the heart of South Asia – with a dynamic workforce, positioning it as an ideal destination for investment.

“Yet, for decades, we have failed to attract foreign direct investment. Scores of economic zones were developed, but they remain empty. In many places, they are being used for cattle grazing. Widespread corruption, misrule, and brutal dictatorship drove away potential investors.

“The July uprising led by young people brought an end to those days. They committed to creating a new Bangladesh, Yunus said, adding, “So please be part of our history. Make a history for this nation with us.”

The interim government, which took over after the uprising, has restructured BIDA as an agency that means business.

“Invite you to explore the extensive opportunities that Bangladesh offers – from textiles and garments to pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, fisheries, jute, as well as information technology,” the chief adviser said.

“I urge Chinese investors to make

Bangladesh their home and their production hub. Our young people are ready to accept that challenge.”

Yunus also stressed the need for reviving the lost glory of jute and increasing its use to strengthen the country’s economy.

“When you talk about jute, it is an emotional issue for Bangladesh. This is a unique country, which produces enormous natural fibres over many years,” he said.

He also recalled the lost glory of Muslin, which was one of the most valuable fabrics on the planet.

At the conference, Yao Wen, Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, said the visit of the largest business delegation will write a new chapter in collaboration, deepen ties, and take partnership to a new height.

Encouraging foreign investment has been a key focus for Bangladesh’s interim government. Since its formation, around 20 Chinese companies have entered investment agreements with Bangladesh partners, collectively committing over \$400 million.

Additionally, four days ago, the first shipment of premium-quality mangoes was successfully exported to China. Looking ahead, there is optimism that more top-tier Bangladeshi agricultural products, such as jackfruit and guava, will soon reach the Chinese market, delivering

real benefits to the people of both nations.

Among others, Cao Derong, president of China Chamber of Commerce of Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-Products; Liu Chun, vice president of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronics Products; Zhang Xian, vice president of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles; and Kong Linghui, vice president of China International Chamber of Commerce for the Private Sector, spoke at the programme.

Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, BIDA executive chairman, moderated the event and its Head of Business Development Nahian Rahman Rochi made a presentation.

Meanwhile, during a meeting later in the day with the chief adviser at Jamuna, Chinese minister Wentao said his country was ready to extend cooperation with Bangladesh in trade and commerce, with a particular focus on agriculture, jute, marine fisheries, and research, reports BSS.

“The Chinese companies that have come with me are excited. You expressed the direction of Bangladesh’s future development. The Chinese companies told me that they are now more confident about investing in Bangladesh after your initiatives,” Wentao told Yunus.

Downpours submerge hundreds of villages

FROM PAGE 12

rivers in Sylhet, and the Manu in Moulvibazar were flowing over what is officially recognised as the danger level early yesterday, inundating many areas in Kanaighat, Zakiganj, Beanibazar, and Golapganj in Sylhet, and Kulaura, Barlekha and Sadar upazilas in Moulvibazar.

In Sylhet City, MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital was inundated. Neighbourhoods in Shahjalal Uposhohor and Majortila were also flooded.

Low-lying areas in Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, and Kurigram were flooded and the water kept rising.

Many farmers say they fear for their harvest.

Sunil Kumar, executive engineer of WDB in Lalmonirhat, said the water level was still below the danger mark.

“We advise the residents to stay alert,” he added.

In Brahmanbaria, villages near Akhaura Land Port have been inundated amid heavy rains upstream.

Farmlands and roads in Kalikapur, Birchandrappur, Abdullahpur, and Bangerchar villages have gone under water.

In Cox’s Bazar, the deep depression damaged 1,700 metres of embankment in Maheshkhali, Kutubdia, and Bharuakhali.

To temporarily tackle the situation during this monsoon, the authorities have requested Tk 2.5 crore in emergency funds to drop geo-tubes at the breached embankments in Kutubdia, said Mohammad Nurul Islam, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Cox’s

Bazar.

After six days of suspension, boat services on the Teknaf Saint Martin’s Island route resumed yesterday.

In Patuakhali, the depression damaged nearly 7,000 fish farms and enclosures, causing an estimated Tk 25 crore damage, according to the district fisheries office.

In Noakhali, the body of a woman was recovered a day after a boat capsized in the Meghna.

A police officer and a child were still missing.

Almost all the villages in Hatiya had been damaged during the depression.

[Our Correspondents in Sylhet, Chattogram, Moulvibazar, Brahmanbaria, Lalmonirhat, Patuakhali, and Noakhali contributed to the report.]

SC orders EC to restore Jamaat’s registration

FROM PAGE 1

been reinstated following yesterday’s SC judgment, the party’s lawyer Ehsan A Siddiq told The Daily Star.

The Election Commission will now dispose of other issues, including the party’s election symbol.

The party will now submit an application to the EC for necessary decisions, he said.

Talking to reporters at his office, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said the EC had not yet received any directive regarding Jamaat’s registration and election symbol from the court.

Once the EC received the SC order, necessary steps would be taken accordingly, he added.

Jamaat lost the right to contest parliamentary elections as a party after the HC declared its registration with the EC illegal on August 1, 2013, following a writ petition.

Maulana Syed Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of the Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, along with 24 others, filed the petition on January 25, 2009, seeking a court order declaring the party’s registration illegal.

The EC subsequently scrapped Jamaat’s registration in October 2018 ahead of the 11th national election.

Jamaat later filed an appeal with the Appellate Division, challenging the HC verdict. The Appellate Division began hearing the appeal on

December 3 last year.

No lawyer placed arguments on behalf of the writ petitioners during the hearing before the Appellate Division on this issue.

Jamaat’s registration was snatched through a politically motivated case, said Mohammad Shishir Manir, another lawyer for Jamaat.

Through this verdict of the Appellate Division, the multiparty democratic and participatory parliament will be ensured, he said.

“We asked for a short order. Hopefully, we will get the order within a day or two and will take the short order to the Election Commission. I hope that the commission restores the registration and allocates ‘Daripalla’ (weighing scale) as its [Jamaat’s] election symbol very soon,” he added.

On December 12, 2016, the SC had a full court meeting and decided to request the EC not to allocate the symbol to any political party since it is used as the monogram of the apex court. The then SC authorities on December 14, 2016, sent a letter in this regard to the EC.

The weighing scale was earlier allocated to Jamaat-e-Islami.

Four days before its ouster, the Awami League government banned Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir and others through an executive order. The organisations were prohibited under the Anti-

Terrorism Act 2009.

The interim government on August 28 last year lifted the ban on Jamaat, Shibir, and all of Jamaat’s front organisations.

Jamaat was first banned in independent Bangladesh in 1972 over their anti-liberation role under a new constitutional provision that banned politics based on religion.

In 1976, the then military government repealed the restriction by issuing a martial law proclamation, allowing the formation and functioning of organisations based on religion.

Israeli gunfire

FROM PAGE 12

Only limited amounts of aid have entered Gaza since Israel recently eased a more than two-month total blockade, with a spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency recently calling the territory “the hungriest place on earth”.

The Palestinian group said Saturday evening that it had responded positively to a US-backed ceasefire proposal, but had emphasised the need for a permanent ceasefire – long a sticking point for Israel.

Washington’s main negotiator on Gaza, envoy Steve Witkoff, immediately criticised Hamas’s reply as “totally unacceptable”, an assessment echoed by Israel, which on Friday had warned Hamas to either accept the deal “or be annihilated”.

TIB voices concern over river grabbing

FROM PAGE 12

“We believe that such a river-grabbing entity has no moral or legal right to maintain any business relationship with the state or the government. We call for the immediate blacklisting of Shah Cement as a first step toward ensuring strict accountability,” he said, adding that the firm should

be barred from all government contracts, licences, and financial incentives.

He also urged all other businesses to set an example by cutting ties with Shah Cement.

TIB urged the local administration, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, and the National River

Conservation Commission to initiate action against Shah Cement and other encroachers.

“Although the Munshiganj District Administration and the National River Conservation Commission identified the company as an “encroacher” in 2018, 2019, and 2023, the government has yet to take effective action to protect the rivers.”

ACC raids Nagad HQ

FROM PAGE 12

service provider’s head office in connection with the two complaints.

“During the drive, the ACC team found initial evidence of irregularities in the recruitment process. Based on these findings, the commission may interrogate Atik Morshed, the personal officer to Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, and Morshed’s wife Jakia Sultana Jui,” the statement read.

As for the suspected misappropriation of funds, the

commission has formally asked Nagad to submit all pertinent documents and records. “Upon receiving and reviewing the documents, the investigation team will submit a detailed report to the commission,” it added.

The investigation follows a recent media report linking Morshed to suspected corruption involving the financial service provider.

Morshed could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.

Meanwhile, he and his wife Jakia

have been summoned by the ACC at 10:00am today, according to multiple ACC officials who spoke anonymously.

The couple was not served a formal summons; instead, they were contacted by the ACC via mobile phone, they added.

This is not the first time Nagad has come under ACC scrutiny. In February, an ACC team raided the company’s headquarters and claimed to have found preliminary evidence of corruption and the laundering of Tk 2,300 crore.